

# 1,200 LIVES IN PERIL OF FIRE THAT SPREADS FROM HARLEM LUMBER YARD TO 16 HOUSES

10,000 Persons, Awakened by Fumes, Crowd Housetops and High Bluffs.

## POLICE RESERVES OUT.

Many of the Patients in St. Luke's Hospital Suffer From the Smoke.

Ross's lumber yard in West One Hundred and Fifteenth street between Manhattan and Eighth avenues burned for two hours after 1.30 o'clock this morning. There is no language on tap in the dictionaries to make anybody who did not see it know what the fire was really like, but here are a few of the things which happened:

Gasoline tanks in the lumber yard exploded and the flames from them shot higher than the elevated station on the spider-like trestle at One Hundred and Sixteenth street.

More than 1,800 dwellers in apartment houses which look out on the lumber yard were actually in danger and were awakened and chased out into the street by one lone policeman, who flailed from exhaustion after running up and down twenty-five stories of stairs, beating on doors with his stick and yelling "Fire!" and "Get out!"

Ten thousand more people were awakened by the thick, choking smoke from the burning pine lumber and got on roofs and fire-escapes and the bluffs of Morningside Park to find out whether the world had come to an end—and most of them, in the belief of the police reserves from three stations, believed that it had.

Fifty seriously ill patients in St. Luke's Hospital, half a mile away, had to be moved from their beds on stretchers and taken to places where the smoke would not strangle the little breath that was left in them.

The water supply for Harlem was so far used up in conquering the flames that people who insisted on their morning bath in the Manhattan valley section had to go down to the basement and take water upstairs in pails.

Not One Person Hurt. All these in addition to the ordinary excitement which accompanies three alarms of fire in this big city, with the hope of the automobile fire engines and the clatter of the fire-escapes, the shouting and tooting, screaming whistles of the old-fashioned engines, the throb of pumps and the patter of heavy potted feet coming from everywhere within a mile.

And not a human being was hurt except to require looking over by an ambulance surgeon.

Even the lives of four horses in the lumber yard were saved.

William J. Derrickson, sleeping in his apartment at No. 312 West One Hundred and Sixteenth street, was awakened by the pungent stinging of smoke in his nostrils at 1.30 o'clock. He got up and snuffed around his own place, pulled on trousers and shoes and went from the top to the bottom of the building, and found no fire. Almost convinced that it was a false alarm, he went to his window and looked out. He saw a fire on the roof of the Ross lumber yard. He had seen a forty-foot-wide bonfire playing up from the middle of the Ross lumber yard. It must have been smoldering there for hours.

Life-Saving Marathon. At the fire-alarm box on the corner of Derickson ran into Policeman Charles Haight of the West One Hundred and Twenty-fifth street station, who was ringing the alarm.

"You stay here and tell the firemen where it is," said Haight. "I got to go around and see if there is anybody to wake up."

Right there began the life-saving Marathon of Haight's which would have put his name in schoolbooks if he had done it in the good old days of Athens. The people who stood around the streets and looked at him and his fire-escapes told each other that there must have been at least twenty policemen in the neighborhood.

There were not. It was all Haight. And when he came to, being fanned by the night clerk and the hall boy of the Glen Court Hotel, at Eighth avenue and One Hundred and Sixteenth street, along about 1.30 o'clock, he was worrying for fear he might have missed a flat-topped coroner in passing.

Gasoline Sprayed Over Yard. About half a minute after Battalion Chief Clark whirled up to the alarm box and directed by Derrickson whirled away again around the corner to the lumber yard. He was back again starting a second alarm. On his third visit to the box, some fifteen minutes later, he met Acting Chief Kenyon, who was turning in a third alarm. Kenyon had seen the sky scorching burst of the gasoline flames and had not waited to go around to One Hundred and Fifteenth street to have final information.

The gasoline sprayed all over the yard. Everything which had not caught fire before was in a blaze in a flash. Pretty soon windows in the apartments which backed on the lumber place began to crack and soon there was fire in every one of them. Firemen were

sent into Nos. 312-14-16-18-20 East One Hundred and Fifteenth street, Nos. 310-12-14-16 One Hundred and Sixteenth street, Nos. 302-4-6-8 and 312 and 314 Manhattan avenue to put out these little blazes.

The only rescues recorded were those of a lost riddle man, the officer of Police Sergeant Leith who was found helpless in an apartment where the window curtains were burning at No. 314 West One Hundred and Fifteenth street and was carried down to the street by a fireman and a hysterical maid in Mrs. Bowen's boarding house at No. 331 West One Hundred and Fifteenth street, who had to be subdued by force before she would go to the street in the few clothes she had on.

## Whole Block Empty.

East of the burning lumber over toward Eighth avenue there was no trouble. The wind rolled the smoke and flames off to the west. But Capt. Parrell of the West One Hundred and Twenty-fifth street station, who had charge of the reinforcements, which came charging in to relieve the solitary Haight, thought it was just as well to clear the whole block.

Meanwhile the smoke swept off over Morningside Park and crept into the windows of thousands of sleepers and woke them. It started the patients of St. Luke's coughing so that every nurse and physician in the hospital was called for emergency duty.

## WOMAN NEAR DEATH IN BURNING BALLOON.

Strapped to Parachute Trapeze When Bag Catches Fire—Saved by an Aeronaut.

NORFOLK, Va., May 24.—Tied to a balloon, Mme. de Verona, a young woman aeronaut, was face to face with death yesterday afternoon. She had been engaged to make ascensions and parachute drops at Central Park, and it was her first appearance.

The woman was strapped to the parachute trapeze and the bag started upward. The wind blew it directly over a gas flame and in an instant the balloon was on fire.

Walter Paxon, an aeronaut, leaped, caught the life line and gave it a powerful pull. The flames almost killed his face, but he cut the parachute line and the helpless woman fell. She was perhaps ten feet from the ground and was not injured.

The balloon rose 300 yards and dropped to the ground in flames.

## DIRECTOIRE SKIRTS NEXT.

Harlem Style Dead, Lady Duff Gordon Says, and Sees Revival.

Lady Duff Gordon, one of the arbiters in the war of fashion, came back from Paris to-day by the Kronprinzessin Cecile, bearing the news of the doom of the harmon skirt. In its place, she said, would come a revival of the Directoire skirt, which will show only a mere trifle of the ankle.

"I have been in Paris looking after the opening of my new house," she said. "And it was a huge success. The harmon skirt? It has run its short course. It is dead. One need not fear that it will be brought to life again. I think that the tendency will be to adopt the Directoire style of a few seasons past, which will reveal a little of the ankle."

Lady Duff Gordon is a smoker, and she warmly championed the cause of Our Lady Nicotine. She said that one of the fashions now countenanced smoking by women and that she smoked coming over, as did most of the others.

## POULTRY TRUST TRIAL ON.

Nineteen Merchants Accused of Fixing Prices.

The trial of nineteen members of the New York Live Poultry Commission Merchants' Protective Association, which is a part of the organization known as the "live poultry trust," on a charge of conspiracy, began to-day before Judge Rosalesky in the Court of General Sessions.

The indictment was filed in March, 1910. It charges the defendants with fixing the prices to jobbers and jobbers' prices to retailers and with having a blacklist by which certain firms and persons were prevented from buying poultry.

Former District Attorney Jerome is defending the poultry merchants. Assistant District Attorney William A. De Ford is prosecuting them.

## 800 STUDENTS ON STRIKE.

Pugilistic Bout Causes Riots in Ohio Northern University.

ADA, O., May 24.—Eight hundred students went on strike to-day at Ohio Northern University as the result of the expulsion of nine students for participating in a pugilistic combat.

Those expelled included Theodore Roth, senior, Erie, Pa.; T. J. Mosante, junior, Bridgeport, Conn.; Victor Johnson, senior, New Castle, Pa.; John Wilson, junior, Milwaukee, and Lloyd Freeman, junior, Detroit.

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# CAN YOU FIND SWEENEY?



YOU'VE heard about Sweeney, of course. Perhaps you have run for him. You've certainly "told it" to him.

But have you ever SEEN him? Here he is! This is his first authentic picture. There are eight other men in the group, but you ought to have no trouble at all in picking out Sweeney. In case you are not good at recognizing even such a perfect likeness, here is a tip for your guidance:

The famous "Tell it to Sweeney" joke started when Sweeney whispered it to Brown, who repeated it to Jones, who passed it on to Robinson. The story went around in a circle until it came back to Sweeney in such changed form that he told it over again as a new one. The picture—one

of Sam Lloyd's most fascinating puzzles—shows Sweeney and his eight cronies.

You may not be able to single Sweeney out of the group at once. It is a curious fact, however, that if you will read the facts over carefully and compare them with the picture you should be able to establish his identity.

WHICH ONE OF THE MEN IS SWEENEY?

To encourage ingenuity, The Evening World invites readers to test their wits and compete for five prizes of \$2 each, which will be awarded for the best answers to the question, "Which man is Sweeney?" together with the cleverest humorous couplet relating to the incident.

Address your answer to "Sweeney," Evening World, No. 33 Park Row, New York City.

## BLACK OUT ON \$5,000 BAIL IN BANK CASE.

Mother Paid \$13,000 to the Knickerbocker Savings Just Before Arrest.

T. Atherton Black, indicted on a charge of grand larceny in connection with the closing of the Knickerbocker Savings Company and the alleged theft of \$17,000 from that institution, was arraigned yesterday before Judge Mulqueen in General Sessions and released on \$5,000 bail. His counsel, John W. Hart, was granted until May 31 in which to enter a plea, as it is understood that other and superseding indictments are to follow.

## \$2,500 FOR SON'S DEATH.

Real Estate Man Gets Verdict Against Importer Who Shot Boy.

Failing to punish Jesse Ullman criminally for the accidental shooting of his twenty-one-year-old son, Millard, at Far Rockaway in August, 1909, Edward Seaman was to-day awarded \$2,500 damages in a civil action he brought against Ullman before Justice Goff and a jury in the Supreme Court.

The Ullmans and Seamans have summer homes at Far Rockaway. Ullman admitted he shot Seaman, but declared he mistook the young man for a burglar.

The District Attorney of Queens County refused to present the case to the Grand Jury. A petition was sent to Gov. Hughes, and after an investigation Ullman was indicted for manslaughter in the first degree. The Judge who presided at Ullman's trial directed a verdict of acquittal.

Seaman brought a suit for \$20,000 damages. He is a real estate dealer. Ullman is a silk importer, with a place of business at No. 19 Greene street, this city.

## FAVORS HEAVIER DAMAGES.

Justice Goff Sets Aside \$1,500 Verdict for Ironworker's Death.

Holding that a verdict for \$1,500 awarded to Mrs. Alma C. Johnson in a suit she brought against the Hiter Conley Manufacturing Company, engineering contractors, for the death of her husband, an ironworker, was insufficient, Justice Goff in the Supreme Court to-day directed that a new trial of the action be held.

Johnson was thirty-nine years old and met his death while in the employ of the contractors. He earned \$3 a day.

"Considering that the deceased was the sole support of his family," said Justice Goff, "earning good wages and in the prime of life, this sum is not adequate compensation. The verdict is set aside."

## BABY DROWNS IN SEWER AS MOTHER FEEDS FOWLS.

All-Night Search Ends in Discovery of Two-Year-Old's Body In Drain.

While his mother Mrs. Lyman Moxon was feeding her chickens last evening her two-year-old son, Walter, wandered away from the Moxon home at No. 55 Charles street, Bloomfield, N. J. Returning to the house a few minutes later the woman missed the boy, and after a vain search of the yard gave the alarm.

Led by the distracted parents and the older brothers and sisters of the child, the neighbors turned out with lanterns and candles, and for five hours hunted for the little wanderer. Not a sign of him was to be found. By midnight half the town had been aroused.

Finally early this morning some one suggested that the little chap might have fallen into the mouth of a big drain water sewer, which opens in Charles street. Max Johnson and his son Nicholas brought rakes from their barn and began stirring up the water and debris in the catch basin. In a few minutes they brought the baby's body to the surface. He had been drowned.

When the tiny body was carried home the mother became wildly hysterical.

## Killed by Overdose of Bromide.

Mrs. Margaret Bridwell, forty years old, was found dead in bed to-day in her apartment on the top floor of No. 567 West One Hundred and Forty-eighth street. During the early part of the night she had taken bromide and Coroner's Physician Lenane, who was called

after the Coroner had been notified, was of the opinion that death had been induced by an overdose. Mrs. Bridwell lived alone with a maid. Her sister, Mrs. Meyers of No. 55 West One Hundred and Thirty-ninth street, took charge of the body.

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# UNION BANK FIRST TO BE RELIEVED BY SUPT. VAN TUYL

New Head of State Department to Investigate Claims of 25,000 Depositors

ALBANY, May 24.—Superintendent George C. Van Tuyl Jr., of the State Banking Department, announced to-day that he proposes to make a thorough investigation of the affairs of the Union Bank of Brooklyn, whose 25,000 depositors have been clamoring for their money since the failure of the institution in April, 1910.

The Superintendent expects to begin the inquiry in about a week. He said that he proposes, as his first step, to give full recognition to the demands of the depositors of the Union Bank and he will call a conference at the New York office of the department with the members of the committee appointed to protect the interests of depositors in the liquidation of the bank's assets and the closing up of its affairs.

It is the belief of Superintendent Van Tuyl that the work of liquidating can be promoted most satisfactorily through co-operation between the depositors and the department's representatives and he favors a plan whereby the depositors' committee should elect one of their number to keep in constant touch with the department and to advise those interested of every move made in closing up the bank's obligations.

A delegation of the depositors of the Union Bank recently called on the Governor and urged him to use his influence in bringing about the passage of a resolution introduced by Assemblyman Goldstein, providing for the appointment of a Joint Legislative Committee to investigate the bank.

## FED HIM DYNAMITE.

Victim Declares He Was Forced to Chew Explosive.

POTTSVILLE, Pa., May 24.—Charging that an attempt had been made to blow him up by forcing him to eat dynamite, Michael Slater of Blackwood entered charges against Herbert White to-day.

Slater charged that White held him fast and thrust a stick of dynamite down his throat. He alleges that he was forced to bring his jaws together and sink his teeth into the dynamite. Had it exploded both would have been blown to atoms.

# LIGHTNING HITS 6 PRAYING AT ALTAR, CHURCH IS BURNED

Five More Struck by Bolt When Congregation Tries to Rescue Relics.

OTTAWA, Ont., May 24.—Struck by lightning when kneeling at the altar in evening prayers in the Roman Catholic Church at St. Cecil de Masham, a French-Canadian village, thirty miles from this city, six worshippers were rendered unconscious last night, while the church, with the convent and priests' home adjoining, was destroyed by fire, causing a loss of \$25,000.

There was a large congregation assembled at the time. They were of their knees in prayer when a terrific crash deafened and partially stunned them. Father Caron, standing at the altar, stopped his prayer. With the crash came darkness, the lamps and the candles being extinguished. Suddenly there was seen near the roof a tongue of flame.

People rushed for the doors. The exits became blocked and panic was near. Father Caron's soothing words finally quieted the people, so that they escaped from the church unhurt.

Then men and women rushed back to save the sacred vessels and relics in

the church, one of the oldest in this part of the province.

While they were at work there came another bolt. This time two men and three women were knocked unconscious. They were carried out by the others and resuscitated. By this time the roof of the church was falling in.

## MAN DEAD IN FREIGHT CAR MAY HAVE BEEN MURDERED.

Jersey City Coroner Will Determine Whether He Shot Himself or Met Foul Play.

Assistant County Physician Haskins of Jersey City will hold an autopsy to-night on the body of a man found in a Central Railroad of New Jersey freight car at Communipaw to determine whether the man committed suicide or was slain. He was shot through the right breast and the revolver lay beside the body.

The police call the case a suicide, but Morgue Keeper Weston declared it would not have been possible for the man himself to have inflicted such a wound. Weston also found bruises and scratches on the face and hands that to him indicate an attack.

The man was about fifty years old and poorly dressed. He was five feet, six inches tall and weighed 146 pounds. His hair was black and his skin dark. Three of his front teeth were filled with gold. His pockets were empty.

## PORT OF NEW YORK.

ALMANAC FOR TO-DAY.

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